

(d) if so, the details of the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) Government has permitted Foreign Investment in Telecom manufacturing, Value Added Services and Basic Telecom Services. A large number of foreign companies, including Multinationals,

have shown willingness to invest in the telecom sector.

The Government has approved 303 proposals in respect of Foreign Direct Investment of the order of Rs. 21770.653 crores during the period from 01/08/91 to 30/11/96. Details of foreign investment proposals cleared so are indicated below :

S.No.	Sector	No. of Approvals Accorded			Amount of FDI Approved
		Technical	Financial	Total	
1.	Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service	1	80	81	18073.60
2.	Radio Paging	1	36	37	438.355
3.	Telecom Equipment Manufacturing and Other Value Added Services.	74	111	185	3258.698
		76	227	303	21770.653

[English]

Telephone Connections to Village Panchayats

948. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of village Panchayats which have been provided and those which have not been provided with telephone connections in the country as on December 31, 1996, State-wise;

(b) the target in this regard during the 8th five year plan, state-wise;

(c) whether it has been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which all the village panchayats in the country are likely to be provided with telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The state-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (e) In the 8th Plan formulation, all village panchayats were to be provided with public telephones. Subsequently, National Telecom Policy (NTP) 1994 stipulated that all the villages should have a public telephone by the year 1997. Since Panchayats were also included in villages, they were also to be covered.

The target could not be achieved. This target was to be achieved with the participation of private sector in Basic Telecommunication Services area which has been delayed. DoT also could not achieve its Annual Targets.

The Village Public Telephone connections are being provided progressively to all the villages which include Gram Panchayats also. During the IXth Plan period, all the villages are to be provided with a village public telephone (VPT).

Statement

S.No.	Circle	No. of Village Panchayats provided with telephone connection	No. of Village Panchayats not provided with telephone connections
1.	Andaman Nicobar	45	22
2.	Andhra Pradesh	17007	2526
3.	Assam	2080	45
4.	Bihar	8907	2885
5.	Gujarat	12163	1347
6.	Haryana	5338	608
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2480	442
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	740	721
9.	Karnataka	5340	331
10.	Kerala	982	Nil
11.	Madhya Pradesh	19226	11696
12.	Maharashtra	22249	2600
13.	North East	2286	2061
14.	Orissa	4973	288
15.	Punjab	8974	2769
16.	Rajasthan	8208	970
17.	Tamil Nadu	12994	181
18.	U.P. (E)	18493	32769
19.	U.P. (W)	10116	29063
20.	West Bengal	3189	30
21.	Calcutta Telephone	51	50

[Translation]

Increase in Number of Foreign Tourists

949. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a phenomenal increase in the number of foreign tourists coming to India to visit world famous temples of Khajuraho during 1996;

(b) if so, the increase in the number of tourists in 1996 in comparison to 1995;

(c) the income earned by Madhya Pradesh from the visits of foreign tourists to Khajuraho Temple;

(d) whether with a view to attend more foreign tourists the Government have formulated any scheme to provide more facilities to them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) According to the statistics available from the State Government, the number of foreign tourists visiting Khajuraho registered an increase of about 15.5% during 1996 over the previous year.

(c) The income from tourists are not estimated place-wise.

(d) and (e) The development of tourist facilities at any particular place is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, a sum of Rs. 30.79 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Central Department of Tourism for the construction of a Tourist Reception Centre at Khajuraho during 1990-91.

Termination of Services under Wage Payment Act

950. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :

SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases regarding termination of services under Wage Payment Act, 1936 Minimum Wage Act, 1948 and Workers Compensation Act, 1923 have been filed by the workers/representatives of the workers in labour office of NOIDA industrial centre of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Special Reservation Facilities to Foreign Tourists

951. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide special reservation facilities to the foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) Special reservation facilities are being provided by Indian Airlines to Foreign Tourists for their travel within India which include confirmed bookings upto the limit of 400 seats to all Foreign Tourists groups and individuals seeking reservation upto 60 days prior to departure of the first flight except on international sectors and on flights to/from Port Blair, Leh, North Eastern Sector on domestic network.

Indian Railways also provide special reservation facilities for foreign tourists visiting India.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Gauge Conversion in Tamil Nadu

952. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rail lines being converted into broad gauge in Tamil Nadu, project-wise;

(b) the total funds sanctioned for gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu during the current financial year;

(c) the total funds utilised and rail lines converted into broad gauge, so far project-wise;

(d) the steps taken for converting the rail lines between Thanjavur and Chennai beach;

(e) the time by which the complete rail track is likely to be converted into broad gauge; and

(f) the total funds released for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) to (f) Gauge Conversion of Madras Beach - Tiruchchirappalli and Tiruchchirappalli - Thanjavur - Nagore-Karaikal railway lines has been taken up. These works are now likely to be completed by March '98 and Dec.'98 respectively. Outlay for these works in 96-97 was Rs. 100 crores and in 97-98 it is Rs. 144 crs.

Statement

(Rupees in Crores)

S.No.	Project	kms.	Cost	Outlay for 1996-97	Funds utilised upto 31.03.96	Distance converted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Madras Beach-Tiruchchirappalli-Dindigul	340	300.00	75.00	100.40	Madras Beach-Tambaram (27kms)